Losses caused to farmers for purchase of Gowar seed

2709. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the farmers purchased Gowar seeds at Rs. 1200/- per quintal and sell the crop at Rs. 140/- to Rs. 170/- per quintal (yield per acre ranging between 5 to 7 quintals) thereby incuring heavy loss; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the wide variation in the prices of the Gowar at the time of sowing and the prices at the time of reaping the harvest stating the steps being contemplated by Government to make good the loss being suffered by the farmers on account of low recovery of the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Generally the crop production rates are governed on demand and supply principle. In case of production of seed the extra expenditure is incurred on grading, certification, handling, storage packing, transportation etc., which increase the prices of seed. The prices of grain is always lower in every crop and Gowar is no exception to it. The Gowar crop is normally sown under rainfed conditions. During the year 1987 the Gowar crop was severely affected due to serious drought condition that prevailed in the country. During Kharif 1988 Monsoon was quite favourable and demand of gowar seed increased very much. This situation therefore led to the increase of the prices of Gowar seed at the time of sowing. The continuation of good monson during 1988 has resulted to good production of Gowar crop and therefore there was a wide variation in the prices of Gowar at the time of sowing and harvesting.

2710. [*Transferred to the 29th March, 1989*].

Relief to the victims of earthquake in Bihar

2711. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of money spent on the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of earthquake and floods in Bihar during the current year;

(b) what has been the contribution of the Central Government to this relief; and

(c) whether there is any demand of Bihar Government for additional financial assistance pending with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Houses in Unauthorised possession of Ex-Governors

2712. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many houses continue to be in possession of ex-Governors whose entitlement has since ceased; and

(b) whether Government have laid down any date by which they propose to get these houses vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Only one ex-Governor is in possession of a house after the entitlement has ceased.

(b) The case is being processed.

Population of Orissa covered by TV transmissions

2713. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMA-

TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) total population of Orissa covered by TV transmission at present;

(b) whether Government proposes to cover the population of entire State; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) TV service is at present available to about 56 per cent population of Orissa which would increase to about 74 per cent on completion of various Seventh Plan schemes. Extension of TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the country including those of Orissa State can be carried out in a phased manner subject to availability of resources in the future plans for TV expansion.

Land declared totally unproductive

2714. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectare of land declared completely unproductive due to denudation and Soil Erosion in the country;

(b) the total area under water logging and salination;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(d) the allotment of funds in 7th Five Year Plan for the purpose; and

(e) whether Government have any special plan to increase the land resources in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Various estimates including that of National Commission on Agriculture, National Committee for Development of Backward Area, Rashrtiya Badh Ayog, Task Force on Shifting Cultivation and Land Utilisation Statistics (1981-82) indicate that an area of about 173 million hectares is affected by soil erosion and land degradation of different type. However, in absence of comprehensive and specific soil surveys, precise information relating to the extent of land becoming completely unproductive due to denudation and soil erosion in the country, is not available.

(b) The estimated area affected due to (i) water-logging and (ii) salinity (including coastal sandy areas) alkalinity are about 8.5 million hectares and 9 million hectares respectively.

(c) Appropriate specific location-based and problem wise technology of package of practices through the Agricultural Universities and Indian Council of Agriculture Research have been developed. Programmes for soil conservation, land development and reclamation have been launched. Important development programme that are currently under implementation to tackle the problem of erosion and degradation are:—

(1) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects.

(2) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.

(3) National Watershed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas.

(4) World Bank supported—

(i) Pilot Project of Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(ii) Himalayan Watershed Management in Uttar Pradesh.

(5) European Economic Community (EEC) supported.

(i) Integrated Watershed Management in the Ravinous Areas of Chambal and Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh.